



United States Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management

Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401

In Reply Refer to: COC74911

SEP 19 2011

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management, Uncompahgre Field Office (BLM), is seeking input on a proposed coal exploration license on public and private lands. On May 6, 2011 pursuant to regulations in 43 CFR 3410.2-1, Oxbow Mining LLC submitted a Federal Coal Exploration License application to the Colorado State Director of the BLM. BLM is charged with administration of the mineral estate on these Federal lands, and is required, by law, to consider leasing Federally-owned minerals for economic recovery. The purpose of this action is to allow exploration drilling of about 13,873 acres of federal coal that underlies BLM and private surface lands. The need for the application is to explore coal deposits to obtain geological, environmental, and other pertinent data concerning coal deposits (43 CFR 3410.0-2). The two year exploration license would be located on Oak Mesa north of Hotchkiss in Delta County, Colorado, within the following approximate legal locations:

Township 13 South, Range 92 West, 6th P.M.	Township 13 South, Range 93 West, 6th P.M.
Sec 7, Lots 13-20	Sec 9, Lots 9-16
Sec 8, S/2	Sec 10, Lots 9-16
Sec 9, S/2	Sec 11, Lots 9-16
Sec 15, Lots 13, 18, 19, and 22	Sec 12, Lots 9-16
Sec 16, All	Sec 13, All
Sec 17, All	Sec 14, All
Sec 18, All	Sec 15, Lots 1-10, 14-15
Sec 19, All	Sec 16, Lots 1-4
Sec 20, All	Sec 23, Lots 1-15
Sec 21, All	Sec 24, All
Sec 22, Lots 4, 5, 12, and 13	Sec 25, All
Sec 28, Lots 2-7	Sec 26, Lots 1-15
Sec 29, All	Sec 35, All
Sec 30, Lots 5-18	Sec 36, Lots 1-8, 11-14

Of the approximately 13,873 acres of surface lands within the proposed project area, 68% (9,407 acres) of this surface is privately owned, and 32% (4,466 acres) are managed by the BLM. The proposed project occurs mostly on lands with private surface ownership that are underlain by BLM subsurface ownership. Activities planned would impact a small fraction of the 13,873 acres within the proposed coal exploration license area. Proposed disturbances include the drilling of 43 exploration holes, totaling 36 acres of

new disturbance; the construction of 7.86 miles (14.24 acres) of temporary new roads; and use of 30.55 miles of existing roads. Of this proposed disturbance, 0.32 miles of existing road and 0.5 acres of drill pad disturbance would be on surface of public lands. Access to the exploration drill pad locations would be via existing private ranch roads, BLM roads, and new private access roads.

The BLM has determined that this action must be evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify the potential environmental impacts related to the proposed action. The BLM is seeking any comments you may have related to this project. Your comments will assist the interdisciplinary team in identifying issues that should be addressed as part of the evaluation being prepared for this project.

Written comments may be submitted by mail, email, or fax. Comments concerning this proposal should be submitted no later than thirty days from the postmark date of this letter, and sent to:

Desty Dyer
BLM-UFO
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401
Email: desty_dyer@blm.gov
Fax: (970) 240-5367

Parties expressing interest during this comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.400. Appeal and stay procedures are outlined in Form CO-1840. Only those who submit timely comments will be accepted as appellants of the final decision. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Authorized Officer to consider. Also, for appeal eligibility, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify their identity upon request. Please note that comments and information submitted regarding this project, including email addresses and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review and disclosure at the above address. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, email address, or street address from public view or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by the law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Sincerely,



Barbara Sharrow
Field Manager